

RECOGNIZING THAT VIOLENCE
POSES AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS
THREAT TO PEACE AND
STABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res 564, and would like to take this opportunity to commend the countries in Central America that have pooled their time and expertise to discuss common goals through the Central American Integration System (SICA)—which is an inter-governmental organization comprised of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama (with the Dominican Republic as an Associate Member).

I would also like to commend the United States government for its effort in addressing the issues of gangs, drug trafficking and arms trafficking through the Dialogue on Democratic Security that was held with the Central American Integration System countries in Guatemala City this past July.

Violence in Central America is a grave threat to the entire region. Recent numbers from the Andes and parts of Central America show that the murder rate is above forty per 100,000 people, and does not appear to be on the decline. The increasing prevalence of violence in this region raises serious concerns with high levels of insecurity and weak state capacity to deal with criminal activity. The transport of drugs and widespread gang activity create additional problems that must be tackled sooner rather than later.

It is this reason why I support H. Res 564, commending action taken to Combat Criminal Gangs from Central America and Mexico and encouraging regular meetings in which countries can build on existing cooperation toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING ULTRA MACHINING
COMPANY OF MONTICELLO

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I come to the House floor today to congratulate a small business in Monticello—a growing community in Minnesota's Sixth District.

Ultra Machining Company (UMC) was recently 1 of 5 companies nationally to receive the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Freedom Award.

The Award was created to recognize employees who provide exceptional support to their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. It's the highest in a series of ESGR awards.

Sergeant Lou Jacobson, who works at UMC and recently returned from a 22-month deployment in Iraq, nominated UMC for the Freedom Award.

Jacobson wrote, "UMC has made up the difference in my pay while I am deployed. Last summer, a storm knocked down our fence. UMC put out a sign up sheet and the next Saturday 40 of my co-workers showed up at my house . . . UMC paid for all the materials. They said that is what family does, they help."

Madam Speaker, family does help. Minnesota helps. Americans help. Congratulations and thanks go to Terry and Mary Tomann—founders of UMC, all the employees of UMC and Sergeant Lou Jacobson for his service to our country and for letting all Americans know what it means to be family.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RESOLUTION
HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 50th anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age, an event that took place on October 4, 1957 with the launch of Sputnik 1. To recognize the importance of that event, I also am introducing a House Concurrent Resolution, and Reps. MARK UDALL, RALPH HALL, TOM FEENEY, and NICK LAMPSON are joining me as original cosponsors of that resolution.

Madam Speaker, 50 years ago America found itself in the midst of the Cold War, and the launch of Sputnik 1 was seen as yet another challenge in our ongoing and deadly serious rivalry with the Soviet Union. In the aftermath of Sputnik 1, America rose to the challenge that it faced. We invested in our own space program, and we undertook a fundamental reexamination of the Nation's educational system, focusing increased attention on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education—what we now call "STEM" education.

America prevailed. Moreover, our accomplishments in space exploration opened a new era for humankind. Forever after, human aspirations and activity will extend beyond our home planet. Equally importantly, the exploration of space has evolved from Cold War competition into an endeavor that has been marked by significant international cooperation, with results that have benefited all humanity.

For example, our meteorological and environmental satellites have monitored weather and climate, ocean currents, polar ice, fires, and pollution. Communications satellites—or "comsats"—have linked the people of the world in ways not thought possible five decades ago. Precise positioning provided by navigational satellites has brought dramatic benefits to a wide swath of human activities, and "GPS" has become a household word.

Our understanding has been irreversibly enhanced by the many scientific satellites and space probes that have enabled significant advances in our knowledge of the universe. In addition, human spaceflight, including the successful Apollo lunar landings, has inspired successive generations of young people to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Finally, our national security space systems have helped defend the Nation and have pro-

vided us with the means to monitor the actions of potential adversaries.

Madam Speaker, today we again find our Nation locked in a competitive struggle. A "flat" world, an increasingly technological world, has America competing economically in the global marketplace against well trained and well educated rivals.

The competition that accompanied the dawn of the Space Age 50 years ago reinvigorated the Nation's interest in science and technology, leading to an increased investment both in research and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

These investments contributed to the development of a technologically skilled generation of Americans that has led the world in innovation and accomplishment.

The new global competition for preeminence in science and technology and innovation has led to a call for a renewed commitment to research and to STEM education akin to that which followed the dawn of the Space Age. Congress has responded by renewing our national commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education with the recently enacted America COMPETES Act, but we will need to sustain our efforts in this area year after year—there is no "quick fix".

Madam Speaker, I believe that America has received a significant return on its past investments in the Nation's space program, and we need to continue to maintain our commitment to a strong and productive space program. As a result, I and my fellow cosponsors want to honor this historic anniversary by offering the concurrent resolution that I have introduced today. To that end I would just like to close by quoting a few of the key phrases of that resolution, namely:

"Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Congress—

Honors the fiftieth anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age;

Recognizes the value of investing in America's space program; and

Declares it to be in America's interest to continue to advance knowledge and improve life on Earth through a sustained national commitment to space exploration in all its forms, led by a new generation of well educated scientists, engineers and explorers."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION
OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE
TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of H.R. 3432, the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act of 2007. The transatlantic slave trade was the forcible capture and procurement of more than 12 million Africans. These men, women, and children were transported in bondage from their African homelands to the Americas for the purpose of enslavement between the sixteenth and late nineteenth centuries. The actual